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SUBJECT 30 SYRIAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHT SINGNING OF SYRO-PALESTINIAN

AGREEMENT TO END IN LEBANON AND NORMALIZE RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. SYRIAN MEDIA ANNOUNCED SYRO-PALESTINIAN
AGREEMENT BASED ON FOUR POINTS: CEASEFIRE WITHIN TEN
DAYS, FORMATION OF TRIPARTITE LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN-
SYRIAN COMMITTEE UNDER AL CHAIRMAN TO SET AND IMPLEMENT
ITS TERMS, NATIONAL DIALOGUE LED BY SARKIS INCLUDING
ALL PARTIES AND AIMED AT ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY
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GOVERNMENT, AND REGULATION OF PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN

LABANON ACCORDING TO PROVISIONS OF CAIRO AGREEMENT AND FEBRUARY 14 SYRIAN WORKING PAPER. SYRIA MEDIA CONDEMNED SINAI AGREEMENT AS UNDERLYING CAUSE OF LEBANESE EVENTS. EDITORIAL WARNED THAT EGYPT PLANNING TO UNDERMINE SYRO-PALESTINIAN ACCORD. JALLUD DEPARTED SYRIA WITH CALL FOR ALL PARTIES TO COOPERATE IN IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT. ARAFAT WILL PRESUMABLY ANNOUNCE VISIT SHORTLY TO DAMASCUS; UNDUE DELAY WOULD SIGNAL DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF TERMS. AGREEMENT PROVIDES PLATFORM FOR CONCERTED ACTION BY SYRIA AND PALESTINIANS TO PERSUADE LEBANESE PARTIES TO WORK SERIOUSLY TOWARD NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. SYRIANS APPARENTLY TRYING TO WEAN PALESTINIANS AWAY FROM THEIR NEWLY DEVELOPED TIES WITH CAIRO. ACCORD CONTAINS NOW WORD OF SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL AND, VIEWED FROM DAMASCUS, LEAVES SYRIA IN POSITION TO EXERCISE DOMINANT INFLUENCE ON COURSE OF LEBANESE EVENTS. END SUMMARY.

2. SYRIAN MEDIA CONCENTRATED ON DISSEMINATING WELCOME NEWS OF SYRO-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT SIGNED EVENING JULY 29 BY FONMIN KHADDAM AND PLO POLITICAL DIRECTOR QADDUMI. PRESS BANNERED: "AGREEMENT TO STOP THE FIGHTING AND FORM TRIPARTITE COMMITTEE TO CONSOLIDATE SECURITY AND REMOVE ARMED ASPECTS WITHIN TEN DAYS. SYRIA AND PLO REAFFIRM UNITY OF LEBANESE PEOPLE AND LAND. PALESTINIAN SIDE PRAISES SYRIAN POSITION TOWARD PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND SYRIAN SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE TO PLO. SYRIA WILL REMAIN BASE OF PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AGAINST ENEMY. SINAI AGREEMENT ZENITH OF IMPERIALIST ZIONIST PLOT AND LEBANESE EVENTS RESULTED FROM IT."

3. JOINT SYRO-PALESTINIAN STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT BY KHADDAM AND QADDUMI AT 2100L JULY 29 HAILED ACCORD AND NOTED THAT PLO DELEGATION INCLUDED REPS FROM FATAH, PFLP AND PFLP-GC. IT SLASHED SINAI ACCORD, "WHOSE MAIN CONSEQUENCES WERE FRAGMENTATION OF ARAB SITUATION AND PAINFUL EVENTS IN LEBANON." IT PROCLAIMED THAT THE DOCUMENT DECLARED ON FEBRUARY 14, 1976 AND THE CAIRO AGREEMENT AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS ANNEXES WOULD REGULATE LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS. JOINT STATEMENT PLEDGED SYRIAN SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE AGAINST ISRAEL, LAUDED SYRIAN ROLE IN THIS STRUGGLE, AND EMPHASIZED NECESSITY OF CONSOLIDATING ARAB SOLIDARITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH RABAT SUMMIT DECISIONS. BOTH SIDES STRESSED NEED FOR RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREED UPON TERMS.

4. TEXT OF AGREEMENT CONTAINED FOUR POINTS: A) ACCEPTANCE BY ALL SIDES TO HALT FIGHTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH TIMETABLE SET BY HIGHER LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN COMMITTEE;

B) CREATION OF TRIPARTITE LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN-SYRIAN COMMITTEE HEADED BY AL REP TO IMPLEMENT CESSFIRE WITHIN TEN DAYS AND SUPERVISE SECURITY UNTIL PRES. SARKIS ASSUMES CONSTITUTIONAL POWER, DRAWING UPON ASF PRESENT AND OTHER FORCES "DEEMED APPROPRIATE;" C) INITIATION OF NATIONAL DIALOGUE LED BY PRES-ELECT SARKIS AND INCLUDING PARTICIPATION OF ALL PARTIES, BASED ON FEB. 14 CONSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENT AND "ANY OTHER LEBANESE SUBJECTS AGREED UPON PARTIES," AIMING AT FORMATION OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY TO IMPLEMENT REFORMS AND RECONSTRUCT STATE APPARATUS; D) PALESTINIAN ACCEPTANCE OF PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF LEBANON AND GUARANTEE OF PALESTINIAN RIGHT TO PURSUE ITS STRUGGLE FROM LEBANON WITHIN CONTEXT OF REGULATIONS CONTAINED IN SYRIAN WORKING PAPER ON LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS ANNOUNCED FEB. 14, 1976 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CAIRO AGREEMENT AND ITS ANNEXES, AND FORMATION OF LEBANESE-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE TO IMPLEMENT REGULATIONS.

5. LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER JALLUD DEPARTED DAMASCUS FOR LIBYA SHORTLY BEFORE AGREEMENT SIGNED LAST EVENING. HE PRAISED TEXT AND CALLED UPON ALL LEBANESE PARTIES TO COOPERATE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION. HE PLEDGED LIBYAN ASSISTANCE IN EFFORTS TO RECONSTRUCT LEBANON, AND ASSERTED THAT LIBYA NOT FOLLOWING SECTARIAN POLICY IN LEBANON.

6. AL-BAAATH EDITORIAL WELCOMED SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS DESPITE EFFORTS BY "SINAI AGREEMENT REGIME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND IRAQ" TO SABOTAGE SYRO-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS. EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT, "JOINT STATEMENT FRANKLY POINTED TO ROLE OF SINAI AGREEMENT IN THIS PLOT AND ROLE OF REGIME WHICH SIGNED IT IN FABRICATING LEBANESE INCIDENTS AND IN FEEDING MARGINAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SYRIA AND PLO. PLO AND ALL NATIONALIST FORCES MUST REALIZE THAT EGYPTIAN REGIME WILL DEFINITELY NOT KEEP SILENT TOWARD DAMASCUS AGREEMENT AND WILL TRY DESPERATELY TO FOIL IT BECAUSE SINAI ACCORD WILL NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT FIGHTING (IN LEBANON) TO COVER IT AND WITHOUT LIQUIDATING OR EXHAUSTING PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON." EDITORIAL NOTED TRADITIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN SYRIA AND PALESTINAIANS, CITING EXISTENCE OF 84 FATAH OFFICES IN DAMASCUS. IT URGED ALL SIDES TO TAKE RAPID ACTION TO IMPLEMENT SIGNED ACCORD AND CONCLUDED, "MORE

IMPORTANT THAN THE AGREEMENT IS ITS IMPLEMENTATION."

7. COMMENT. BOTH SIDES HAVE NOW AGREED UPON PLATFORM WHICH WILL FORM BASIS FOR EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO PERSUADE LEFTISTS AND CHRISTIANS TO ADHERE TO CEASEFIRE AND PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL DIALOGUE TO RESOLVE CIVIL WAR. ANY UNDUE DELAY IN ANNOUNCING VISIT BY ARAFAT TO DAMASCUS WOULD SIGNAL DIFFICULTIES IN IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT. ANTI-EGYPTIAN ATMOSPHERICS ACCOMPANYING SIGNING OF ACCORD INDICATE SERIOUS CONCERN TO WEAN PLO LEADERSHIP AWAY FROM RAPPROACHMENT WITH CAIRO AND BACK INTO SYRIAN CORNER. (WE NOTE RADIO CAIRO THIS MORNING BROADCAST REPORT OF ARAFAT CABLE TO SADAT ASSERTING THAT JOINT STATEMENT DOES NOT REFLECT HIS VIEWS AND PROCLAIMING FIRM RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND PLO). ARAB AUDIENCES WILL PRESUMABLY BE TREATED TO REHASH OF ARGUMENTS AGAINST SINAI AGREEMENT BY DAMASCUS MEDIA IN COMING DAYS, WITH PROBABLY EMPHASIS ON "THE PLOT/ AND THE ZIONIST AND U.S. HANDS BEHIND IT. JALLUD DEPARTED CENTER STAGE ON UPBEAT NOTE OF SUCCESS, BUT WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE HIM RETURN TO HELP IRON OUT ANY PROBLEMS ARISING DURING COMING IMPLEMENTATION STAGE. SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS LAID ASIDE, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, PROFOUND MUTUAL SUSPICIONS TO REACH THIS AGREEMENT. COMING DAYS WILL FOCUS SPOTLIGHT ON NEGOTIATING PROWESS OF PARTIES WHO WISH FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF CRISIS AND SEEK TO DIVERT VARIOUS POTENTIAL "SPOILERS" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON BOTH SIDES FROM FURTHER CLASHES. ACCORD CONTAINS NO WORD OF SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL AND, VIEWED FROM DAMASCUS, LEAVES SYRIA IN POSITION TO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE A DOMINANT INFLUENCE ON THE COURSE OF LEBANESE EVENTS. PELLETREAU

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